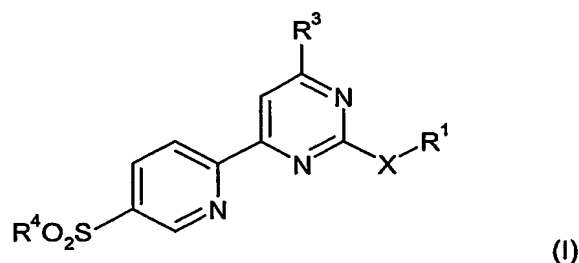


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I)



5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in which:

X is selected from the group consisting of oxygen or NR²;

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of H, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₂alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms, C₃₋₆alkenyl, C₃₋₆alkynyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkylC₀₋₆alkyl, C₄₋₁₂bridged cycloalkyl, A(CR⁵R⁶)_n and B(CR⁵R⁶)_n;

10 R² is selected from the group consisting of H and C₁₋₆alkyl;

R³ is C₁₋₂alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms;

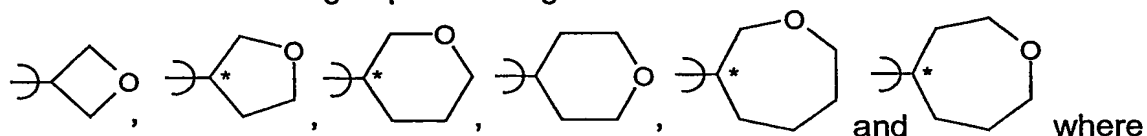
R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆alkyl, NH₂ and R⁸CONH;

R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from H or C₁₋₆alkyl;

15 A is an unsubstituted 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or an unsubstituted 6-membered aryl, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or a 6-membered aryl substituted by one or more R⁷;

R⁷ is selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆alkoxy substituted by one or more F, NH₂SO₂ and C₁₋₆alkylSO₂;

20 B is selected from the group consisting of

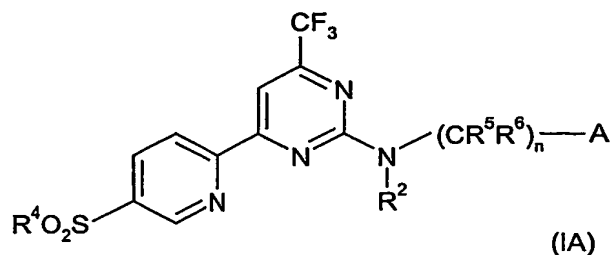


) defines the point of attachment of the ring;

R⁸ is selected from the group consisting of H, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆alkylOC₁₋₆alkyl, phenyl, HO₂CC₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkylOCOC₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋

C_{1-6} alkyloCO, H_2NC_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkyloCONHC C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{1-6} alkylCONHC C_{1-6} alkyl; and
n is 0 to 4.

2. A compound of formula (IA)



5

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof in which:

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H and C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, NH_2 and R^8CONH ;

R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

10

A is C_{5-7} cycloalkyl or an unsubstituted 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or an unsubstituted 6-membered aryl, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or a 6-membered aryl substituted by one or more R^7 ;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkyl substituted by one more fluorine atoms, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy substituted by one or more F, NH_2SO_2 and C_{1-6} alkyl SO_2 ;

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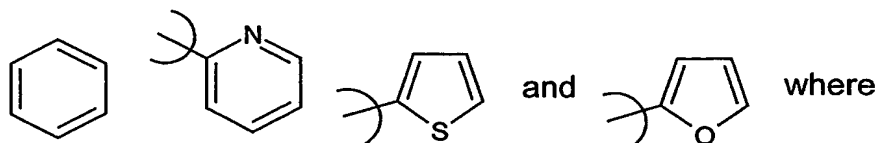
R^8 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylo C_{1-6} alkyl, phenyl, HO_2CC_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkyloCOC C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkyloCO, H_2NC_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkyloCONHC C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{1-6} alkylCONHC C_{1-6} alkyl; and

20

n is 0 to 4.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein R^2 is H or methyl.
4. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 wherein R^4 is C_{1-3} alkyl.
5. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 wherein R^5 and R^6 are both H.

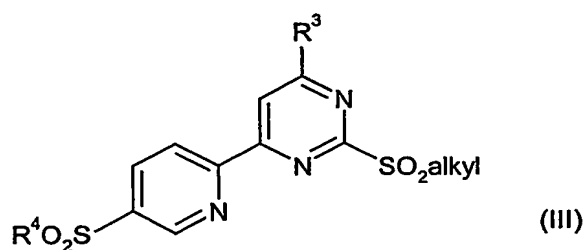
6. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5 wherein A is selected from the group consisting of C₅₋₇cycloalkyl or



defines the point of attachment of the ring and A is unsubstituted or substituted by one or two R⁷.

- 5 7. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 wherein R⁷ is selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁₋₃alkyl, C₁₋₃alkyl substituted by one to three fluorine atoms, and C₁₋₃alkoxy.
8. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 wherein R⁸ is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆alkyl, phenyl and aminomethyl.
- 10 9. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8 wherein n is 0 to 2.
10. A compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 9 and as described in Examples 1 to 13.
- 15 11. [4-(5-Methanesulfonyl-pyridin-2-yl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrimidin-2-yl]-methyl-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-ylmethyl)-amine;
benzyl-[4-(5-methanesulfonyl-pyridin-2-yl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrimidin-2-yl]-amine;
cyclohexyl-[4-(5-methanesulfonyl-pyridin-2-yl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrimidin-2-yl]-amine.
- 20 12. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, which comprises:
- (A), reacting a compound R¹XH of formula (II) or a protected derivative thereof with a compound of formula (III)

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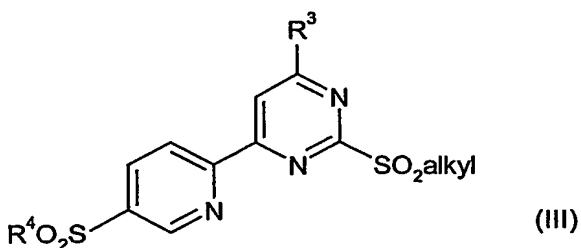
and thereafter and if necessary,

(B), interconverting a compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I); and/or

5 (C), deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (I).

13. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (IA) as defined in claim 2, which comprises:

(A) reacting an amine $\text{HNR}^2(\text{CR}^5\text{R}^6)_n\text{A}$ of formula (IIA) or a protected derivative thereof with a compound of formula (III) wherein R^3 is CF_3



10

and thereafter and if necessary,

(B), interconverting a compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I); and/or

(C), deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (I).

15 14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) or (IA) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11 in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

15. A compound of formula (I) or (IA) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11 for use in human or veterinary medicine.

16. A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by COX-2 which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or (IA) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11.
- 5 17. A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from an inflammatory disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or (IA) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11.
- 10 18. The use of a compound of formula (I) or (IA) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11 for the manufacture of a therapeutic agent for the treatment of a condition which is mediated by COX-2.
19. The use of a compound of formula (I) or (IA) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11 for the manufacture of a therapeutic agent for the treatment of an inflammatory disorder.